

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KINGST 00744 092021 Z

47

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 FAA-00 COME-00 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 RSR-01 DODE-00 PM-09

/046 W

----- 013384

P 091940 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1355

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 0744

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, MARR JM

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR FAA INVESTIGATOR

REF: A. USDAO KINGSTON MSG 094 DTG 261500 Z FEB 73; B. USDAO KINGSTON MSG 096 DTG 271412 Z FEB 73

1. THE AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED A LETTER DATED MAR 8 FROM BRIGADIER DAVID SMITH, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE JAMAICA DEFENCE FORCE, REQUESTING THAT " AN EXPERT FROM THE FEDERAL AVIATION AUTHORITY" COME TO JAMAICA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO EXAMINE THE CONTROL SYSTEM OF THE JDF' S WRECKED BELL 206 A JET RANGER HELICOPTER. THE REF-TELS REPORTED THE CRASH OF THE HELICOPTER AT VERNAMFIELD ON FEB 25.

2. COMMENT: THE PILOT OF THE HELICOPTER, A JDF LIEUTENANT, CLAIMS THAT THE CRASH WAS CAUSED BY A MALFUNCTION IN HIS CONTROL SYSTEM WHICH CAUSED THE CONTROLS TO LOCK. EYE- WITNESSES STATE THAT THE PILOT WAS MAKING A LOW PASS OVER AN AUTO RACE CROWD AT VERNAMFIELD AND HIT A LOUD SPEAKER GUY WIRE. BRIGADIER SMITH TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER MAR 6 THAT HE TENDS TO BELIEVE THE PILOT AND TO BLAME THE HELICOPTER CONTROL SYSTEM. EMBASSY KINGSTON' S DEFENCE ATTACHE STATES THAT THE PILOT IN QUESTION HAS A REPUTATION FOR NOT OBSERVING SAFE FLYING PROCEDURES.

3. THERE ARE DEFINITE DISADVANTAGES IN OUR BECOMING INVOLVED IN ANY WAY WITH THIS MESSY ISSUE. HOWEVER, IF IN FACT THE ACCIDENT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KINGST 00744 092021 Z

WAS CAUSED BY PILOT ERROR AND NOT BY A CONTROL SYSTEM MALFUNCTION, IT WOULD BE TO OUR LONG- TERM COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE TO HAVE THIS FACT ESTABLISHED. THE JDF PLANS TO BUY SEVERAL NEW BELL HELICOPTERS, AND THE CHANCES OF THESE SALES AS WELL AS FUTURE FOLLOW- ON SALES TAKING PLACE WOULD BE ENHANCED IF THE JDF COULD BE ASSURED BY A NEUTRAL OUTSIDE EXPERT OPINION THAT THE AIRCRAFT ARE NOT SUBJECT OT SUDDEN MALFUNCTIONS.
DE ROULET

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KINGST00744
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730323/aaaahdr.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A.USDAO KINGSTON MSG 094 DTG 261500, B.USDAO KINGSTON MSG 096 DTG 271412 Z FEB 73
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24-Jan-2002 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971112
Subject: REQUEST FOR FAA INVESTIGATOR
TAGS: ETRN, MARR, JM
To: EB
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005